



HAVA NEWS

A special informational bulletin for Michigan election officials on the implementation of the Help America Vote Act of 2002

Michigan Department of State - Terri Lynn Land, Secretary of State

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Issue Absent Voter Ballots to Uniformed Services Voters and Overseas Voters ASAP

It is critically important that all absentee ballot requests submitted by uniformed services voters and overseas voters for the August 3 primary be honored as soon as ballots are available! The earlier such requests are honored, the more time uniformed services voters and overseas voters will have to receive the ballot, vote the ballot and return the ballot. Transit time is critical due to the distances the ballots must travel.

If you have not yet received return envelopes for uniformed services voters and overseas voters that bear the newly prescribed oath, envelopes bearing the previous oath language can be used to expedite the delivery of the ballots to the voters. Similarly, there is no need to await the arrival of any tabulator programs being prepared for the August 3 primary before issuing absentee ballots to uniformed services voters and overseas voters.

As previously advised, the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) required the Federal Voting Assistance Program office to prescribe a "standard oath" for use with any document submitted by voters under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). The wording of the oath was included in the HAVA compliance memo issued through the Bureau on June 16, 2004.

Accessibility and Training Surveys Due

In early May, the Bureau distributed a Polling Place Accessibility and Training Survey to all city and township clerks throughout the state. City and township clerks who have not yet completed the survey are reminded to do so as soon as possible.

For convenience, the instructional memo, survey and related materials can be accessed through the Secretary of State's website www.Michigan.gov/sos. Click on "Elections in Michigan" and "Information for Election Administrators." The website permits the electronic completion of the Polling Place Accessibility Checklist if desired.

Election Inspector Training Video to be Distributed

An election inspector training video which includes instructions on implementing the new "provisional balloting" procedures in the polls will be distributed in the near future. Please watch for the arrival of the videos!